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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W
----------007664 132103Z /75
R 131448Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2765
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0168

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, SP, SW
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO SPAIN

REF: (A) 77 STATE 881, (B) 77 STOCKHOLM 1057

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KARIN SODER WILL PAY A TWO-DAY VISIT TO SPAIN BEGINNING JANUARY 24, THE FIRST SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER IN HISTORY, APPARENTLY, TO DO SO. (THE SWEDISH KING WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER DURING A ROYAL VISIT TO MADRID IN 1927 BUT, AS MFA SOURCES POINT OUT, THAT WAS NOT THE SAME.) SODER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MFA POLITICAL DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR KNUT THUBERG, MFA SPANISH DESK OFFICER KRISTER ISAKSSON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT STAFFON WRIGSTAD AND POLITICAL ADVISOR AND CENTER PARTY MP PER GRANSTEDT.

2. IN ADDITION TO HOST, FM MARCELINO OREJA, MRS. SODER WILL MEET PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ AND THE SPANISH KING.
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ALTHOUGH NOT ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED, SHE WILL ALSO MEET WITH PSOE CHIEF FELIPE GONZALEZ AND PCE LEADER SANTIAGO CARILLO. THESE NON-GOVERNMENT LEADERS WERE ADDED SOON AFTER REPORTS REACHED STOCKHOLM OF PSOE AND PCE CRITICISM THAT THE CONFINEMENT OF SODER'S CONTACTS TO GOVERNMENT LEADERS WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF SUAREZ AND THE LATTER'S ATTEMPTS TO "PORTRAY SPANISH DEMOCRACY AS A COMPLETED

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PROCESS."

3. SODER WILL REPORTEDLY WISH TO RAISE POSSIBLE STEPS FOR THE FURTHER NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, INVOLVING BILATERAL TRADE, TOURISM AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE, AS WELL AS BROADER ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST--DISARMAMENT, CSCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, AMONG OTHERS.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE, MRS. SODER'S VISIT IS THE RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS IN MADRID LAST MARCH BY THEN MFA SECGEN SVERKER ASTROM (REFTELS), WHICH WERE DESCRIBED AT THE TIME AS HAVING HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE. ASTROM'S WAS THE FIRST VISIT TO SPAIN BY A HIGH-RANKING GOS OFFICIAL IN MORE THAN 40 YEARS. SAME SOURCE SAID IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN MRS. SODER'S DESIRE TO MEET WITH SPANISH OPPOSITION LEADERS AND THE SCHEDULING OF THESE MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH NOT IN THE ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT, HAD "LITTLE TO DO" WITH PSOE AND PCE CRITICISM. EMBASSY SUSPECTS, HOWEVER, THAT THESE CRITICISMS, PLUS THE URGINGS OF STRONGLY-PSOE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, CONVINCED GOS OF THE WISDOM OF ADDING GONZALEZ AND CARILLO TO HER SCHEDULE.
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